



Farm Service Agency
happy father's day
FSA NEWS

June 2007

Maui County FSA Office
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Office Hours
Monday through Friday
7:30 am – 4:00 pm

County Committee
William G. Jacintho, Chair
Debra N. Kelly, Vice-Chair
Colleen T. Lopes, Member

Staff
James Robello,
County Executive Director

Vance Christensen,
Farm Loan Specialist

Rochelle Kaauamo,
Program Technician

Faith Umetsu,
Program Technician

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We're on the Web!
www.fsa.usda.gov

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long term, resource conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. Through CRP, a landowner or operator can establish a filter strip or riparian buffer adjacent to perennial and seasonal streams. In return, FSA provides participants with financial incentives.

Using CRP, farmers and ranchers enter into 10 and 15 year contracts. In return they receive annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share assistance to establish filter strips or riparian buffers.

Annual rental payments are limited to \$50,000 per "person," per year. Cost share is for 50 percent of eligible cost. Certain practices also include a 40 percent practice incentive payment. There is no limitation on cost share payments.

Other financial incentives may include a Signup Incentive Payment (SIP), Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) and a practice maintenance rate.

Eligible land includes cropland and marginal pastureland. Cropland must have been planted to an annually tilled agricultural commodity during four of the six crop years between 1996 and 2001.

Marginal pastureland eligibility is limited to riparian areas adjacent to perennial and seasonal streams.

For more information contact the Maui County FSA at (808) 244-3100 extension 2 or visit FSA's Web site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and click on the link to "conservation programs" found on the left boarder of the page.

County Committee Elections

The annual election for the Farm Service Agency County Committee is coming up. Any person or group can nominate a qualified producer on the attached form FSA-669A. Producers can also nominate themselves. Nominees must be qualified to vote in the election.

This year, Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3 will be electing a representative to the Committee. LAA 3 consists of all ranches and farms located on the islands of Molokai and Lanai. It includes the communities of Maunaloa, Hoolehua, Kualapuu, Kaunakakai and Lanai City.

If your farm is located in this area you may be an eligible candidate or voter. Contact the Maui County FSA Office if you would like to be added to the slate of candidates, confirm your voting eligibility, or be added to the eligible voter list. Any eligible farmer or rancher may request a ballot from FSA if they don't receive one in the mail. If you would like to be added to the slate of nominees your nomination form (FSA-669A) must be received or postmarked by **August 1**.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by **November 2**. Ballots must be returned or post marked to the Maui County FSA Office by **December 3**. Ballots will be counted at the FSA office in Hoolehua by **December 10**. Please follow the voting instructions carefully. **Only signed ballots will be counted.**

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The FSA County Committee is an important link between national USDA programs and local farmers. As part of the Committee, members will make important decisions on the needs of local farm programs. All farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal voting age are eligible to serve on the County Committee and vote in the elections.

If you don't receive a ballot in the mail by mid-November, contact the FSA office and we will mail you a ballot or make arrangements to have you come in and complete a walk-in ballot.

Farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal voting age who are eligible to participate in FSA programs can vote for their County Committee.

Elections are open to all eligible candidates and voters without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status or disability.

FSA is committed to diversity on County Committees and encourages the participation of minority, female and other under-represented and under-served producers.

To find out more about the FSA County Committee, call the Maui County FSA office at (808) 244-3100 extension 2. You may also visit our website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Access to Programs and Facilities by Persons with Disabilities

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact James Robello, County Executive Director at (808) 244-3100 extension 2.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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